

which have always been the backbone of our economy. Many small business owners are holding off hiring new workers because they're uncertain of higher taxes, more government red tape, more regulations.

We must remove unnecessary regulations. We need to promote real solutions that heal our economy and create new jobs. Americans share the same goal: a healthy economy and positive future. We need to keep the American Dream alive for future generations.

RETURN BUFFALO TO THE URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will take up Homeland Security appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2014. Unfortunately, this legislation, once again, limits the number of cities in the Urban Area Security Initiative program to 25. This is unacceptable. It excludes many cities that have been determined to be a high risk of a terror threat.

The Buffalo-Niagara region, which I represent, includes four international border crossings and the busiest passenger crossing along the northern border with Canada; the largest electricity producer in New York State; and is within a 500-mile radius of 55 percent of the American population and 62 percent of the Canadian population. Recently, authorities thwarted a terror plot in which the target is thought to have been a bridge in Niagara Falls. It is unthinkable this bill should continue to exclude Buffalo from this important program it was once eligible for.

Mr. Speaker, protecting the homeland should be a Federal Government priority. We should be doing more, not less, to protect our most vulnerable cities, including returning cities to this program and ensuring we maintain the capabilities gained under the program.

FREE SPEECH

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment of our Constitution is first because nothing is more important to secure liberty and freedom of speech and freedom of the press than our First Amendment.

There are currently two scandals that put into question the President's commitment to this sacred freedom, with the Justice Department secretly obtaining phone records of reporters at the Associated Press and Fox News, and the IRS targeting certain groups because of their political beliefs.

Yesterday, the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing with the victims of the IRS abuse, and we learned that

IRS officials not only asked many inappropriate questions to members of these groups, like what books they read or what was in their prayers, but also tried to tell free Americans who they could not protest against, and even illegally released private tax records to groups with opposing viewpoints.

Freedom of speech and freedom of the press should never be in question in this Nation, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we can all agree that units of the Federal Government should never use their powers to punish Americans simply because of their ideas. This House will get to the bottom of this issue by following the facts. These free people, our great patriots, deserve no less.

□ 1220

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act, and I rise to urge my colleagues to strengthen that law by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.

I'm a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act because, even today, working women in my district in Georgia and across the country earn, on average, 77 cents for every dollar that men earn for the same work. That's because the penalties under the current law aren't strong enough to deter employers from breaking the law. And the current law doesn't protect employees from retaliation for sharing salary information with coworkers. The Paycheck Fairness Act will plug these loopholes in the law.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand here today with so many of my colleagues to call for the passage of these long-overdue improvements in this landmark law. Every day we ignore the shortcomings of the law is another day we deny women their rights under the law, and that should end right now.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss ObamaCare's assault on jobs and full-time employment. The law is costing wages that are important to families in these tough economic times.

I received an email from a constituent in my district who is a teacher's assistant. Because of the 30 hours that is considered full-time employment in the Affordable Care Act, her hours have been cut to 28 hours a week, along with all of her colleagues. She stated:

I don't even need health insurance, I get it through my husband's employment. But be-

cause of this bill, I will be losing money that my family needs and depends on.

Indiana is also home to over 300 medical device companies, with an economic impact of over \$10 billion a year. Companies in Indiana, like Cook Medical, have already scrapped plans for expansion in the State, citing the 2.3 percent medical device tax.

Yesterday, I discussed with Secretary Sebelius the vote in the Senate, 79-20, and the vote in the last House Congress, 270-146—including 37 Democrats—to repeal the law, but the administration sticks by the fact that they do not want that part of the law repealed.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has been telling Americans for the last 5 years that they are trying to create jobs, but they're refusing to acknowledge the jobs that are being lost because of their health care bill.

STUDENT LOAN RATES

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, by 2018, 63 percent of all American job openings are going to require some sort of post-high school education. Workers who hold bachelor's degrees make, on average, double the people who don't have bachelor's degrees.

Now, if we fail to take responsible action this month, student loan rates are going to double on 7.4 million American students. At a time when other interest rates are at historic lows, this body passed H.R. 1911, a bill that would make college more expensive.

I urge this body to pass H.R. 1433, to hold interest rates where they are in order to broaden opportunities and allow everybody a piece of the American Dream.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH COX

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an educator, leader, author, and role model for young men in Pennsylvania.

This week, Dr. Joseph Cox will preside over his final commencement ceremony as headmaster of the Haverford School, a secondary school for boys in Haverford Township, Delaware County.

Dr. Cox took office as Haverford's headmaster in 1998; and since then, he has led the school and its faculty with his firm belief that teachers and boys must be "firm, fair, funny, focused, and friendly." These qualities were the backbone of Dr. Cox's philosophy of teaching.

Dr. Cox has set a long example for men outside the classroom as well. He's a 30-year Army veteran, serving his country in Vietnam, commanding a battalion of the famous 101st Airborne Division and retiring as a colonel.

A warrior, a poet, a cultivator of the minds of young men, and a sculptor of their character by his example, he leaves the institution not just better than he found it, but he leaves the lives he has touched so much richer for the experience of working with him and learning by his side.

Dr. Cox, you are in every measure what it means to be a teacher. Your community thanks you.

MOLOKAI MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. I rise today to recognize a very talented group of students from the beautiful island of Molokai in my district.

Last week, I had a chance to meet with the Molokai Middle School's Golden Eyes robotics team. Beating out 52 other teams, the Golden Eyes took first place at the Hawaii FIRST LEGO League Championship in December 2012, and recently attended a national invitational.

The FIRST LEGO League is a robotics program created to get students excited about science and technology. The team members included Erik Svetin, Lily Jenkins, Noah Keanini, Katy Domingo, Caele Manley, and Kaitlin DeRouin, with great coaches David Gonzales and Jennifer Whitted.

Together, they researched and developed conceptual glasses, using face-recognition software, to help the elderly remember the people that they met. They researched age-related memory loss and put in 600 hours of research and practice to prepare for the competition, and they're now applying for a patent.

I am so proud of these young people, as they represent the great talent that exists in our State of Hawaii. They are who give me hope for our bright future.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF VIOLA ERGEN

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commemorate the life of an outstanding American, Viola Ergen, who passed away on May 21. She was an American whose life has touched and will touch many Americans for generations to come.

Mrs. Ergen was the daughter of Finnish and Swiss immigrants. She graduated high school at age 15 and was the first female to earn a BAA in accounting from the University of Minnesota. After graduation, she and her husband Bill moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in 1947.

As a dedicated mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she was still volunteering well into her 97th year. Her commitment to excellence in everything she did is reflected in the

lives of her five children and 15 grandchildren, who span this Nation as business leaders, doctors, and volunteers in a number of fields. It is impossible to measure the number of people whose lives will be touched by her time on Earth.

Her work over 40 years in helping Oak Ridge Children's Museum become one of the Nation's finest museums reflects her commitment to helping others.

Mrs. Ergen was an extraordinary person who excelled in an extraordinary generation. She was a great Tennessean, who gave her life tirelessly to her family, friends, and community.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of equal pay for equal work for women.

June 10 marks the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act. In 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was passed, women made 59 cents to the dollar that men made. Fifty years later, women are still paid significantly less than men for their same work. Today, women earn 77 cents for every dollar men make.

Equal pay should not only be viewed as an issue of fairness; it is also an economic issue. The yearly gap of \$8,200 the Sacramento women face could have been put to use paying off student loans, as part of a down payment for a new home, or invested for their retirement.

Paycheck fairness puts the money that women have rightfully earned into their pockets where it belongs. That's why I support the Paycheck Fairness Act and urge my colleagues to support this important legislation as well.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Mr. HUDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Committee on Education and the Workforce heard testimony from Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Despite a mountain of facts to the contrary, she told the committee that the concerns employers have with the health care law are mere speculation. I don't know who the Secretary is talking to in Washington, but the reality for employers out in the real world is there is no speculation when it comes to the job-crushing effects of ObamaCare.

Where I live in North Carolina, ObamaCare is destroying jobs and forces full-time workers to accept part-time hours, and that's just the start. I recently hosted a field hearing in my district where I heard from a business

owner who, prior to ObamaCare, was able to offer some of the best medical, dental, and vision care in the area at a cost of only 20 percent to his employees. Sadly, this same company is now subject to higher premiums, higher Medicare taxes, higher investment taxes, and greater administrative burdens. All of this will divert resources from new training, new equipment, and better wages.

Mr. Speaker, what I see are the facts and not speculation. That's why I'm adamant that we need to repeal this terrible law.

□ 1230

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act. This law was the very first step to closing the gender wage gap. It was also a statement about our values—that women and men deserve equal pay for equal work. But 50 years later, women continue to be devalued.

Equal pay is not only a women's issue, it's a family issue. Families rely on women's wages to make ends meet, and the extra \$11,000 a woman would make each year if she was fairly compensated has real value. It could pay for a year and a half of child care, or feed a family of four with money to spare. Every dollar matters for hard-working women and families.

What's better than the Equal Pay Act's 50th anniversary? A Paycheck Fairness Act birthday. It is time the Paycheck Fairness Act got a vote.

U.S. SUGAR REFORM

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the need for reforming our current sugar program. This uncompetitive, outdated policy is stunting job creation and is harmful to families, candy companies, and food manufacturers that are forced to pay a higher cost for any product made with sugar. Recent data suggests that without reform, the program puts 600,000 jobs in the sugar-using industries at risk. I became all-too-aware of this negative economic impact during a visit at a leading confectioner located in my district.

Headquartered in Bryan, Ohio, Spangler Candy Company is a family-owned business that has been providing consumers with Dum Dums, candy canes, and other confections since 1906. This company currently has over 400 employees, but if it could purchase sugar at world market prices, instead of at an inflated price, the number of